



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/632,759	08/04/2000	Richard J. Selvaggi	ATI-000118BN	2358

25310 7590 02/07/2003

VOLPE AND KOENIG, PC
DEPT ATI
SUITE 400, ONE PENN CENTER
1617 JOHN F KENNEDY BLVD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

AMINI, JAVID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2672

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/632,759

Applicant(s)

SELVAGGI ET AL.

Examiner

Javid A Amini

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

Drawings

Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

The figures that are required to formal drawing (to be visible) are following: 1A, 1B, 3B, 4B and 5B.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashburn U.S. patent 5,651,106, dated July 22, 1997.

1. Claim 1.

“A method for processing video image data includes a plurality of different type of data such as position, texture and color data, the method comprising: providing tasks to be performed on each different type of data of the image data; dividing the image data into a plurality of groups based on the type of data for each group, determining a set of arithmetic operations required to accomplish the tasks provided for the corresponding type of data; assigning each arithmetic operation to one of a plurality of commonly used arithmetic units; performing each arithmetic operation by the assigned arithmetic unit whereby each type of data is transformed in accordance with the corresponding provided tasks; and combining the transformed data of each group”.

Ashburn in Figs. 12 and 16 illustrates plurality of data groups, which are representing vertex parameters. Ashburn divides the image data into groups with known addresses based on positions (position of vertex V0...2 shown by X,Y and Z) and colors (colors of vertex V0...2 shown by R,G and B; also textures are part of color pixel) in Fig. 16. Ashburn discloses in Fig. 3 that is a block diagram of exemplary circuit elements for performing plane equation generation.

Art Unit: 2672

ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) 184, Multiplier 186, and Divider 188 are operatively connected to a Register File 180 and a RAM (Random Access Memory) 196 through a multiplexer/data formatter 182. Performing and assigning an arithmetic unit is inherent because in processing of video image data an arithmetic assigned to perform color manipulation of pixels in certain area and also the certain area can be divide to smaller areas (vertex) and more arithmetic can be assigned to that area. One process of arithmetic provide position of data and the other process will provide the content of pixel data and another arithmetic cab be assigned to perform the depth of the pixel. Ashburn discloses in Fig. 3 the options of Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. Ashburn discloses in (col. 4, lines 52-63) the frame buffer board then combines, on a pixel by pixel basis, the object color values with the resultant texture data provided from the texture mapping board, to generate resulting image R,G,B values for each pixel. R,G,B color control signals for each pixel are respectively provided over R,G,B lines 29 to control the pixels of the display screen to display a resulting image on the display screen that represents the texture mapped primitive.

2. Claim 2.

“The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of data groups comprises a position group for position vertex parameters, a color group for color vertex parameters and a texture group for texture vertex parameters”. See rejection of claim 1.

3. Claim 3.

Art Unit: 2672

“The method of claims 1 wherein the plurality of said commonly used arithmetic units comprises an addition unit and a multiplication unit”. See rejection of claim 1.

4. Claim 4.

“The method of claim 1 wherein the determining a set of arithmetic operations for each task is based on in part by a sequence of arithmetic state”. See rejection of claim 1.

5. Claim 5.

“The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a queue for each of the plurality of commonly used arithmetic units and wherein each assigned arithmetic operation is sent to the queue associated with its commonly used arithmetic unit”. Ashburn discloses in (col. 2, lines 22-67; col. 3, lines 1-15) that the invention is directed to a computer graphic system apparatus for generating pixel data representative of a triangle, comprising a processing circuit for generating plane equation data in response to vertex data representative of a triangle, and a fill scan converter responsive to the processing circuit of the plane equation data for generating pixel data representative of the triangle. Also the step is inherent because providing a queue or generating plane equation for particular task or following a procedure required to assign an arithmetic operation.

6. Claim 6.

“The method of claim 5 further comprising preventing the arithmetic units from performing the arithmetic operations of a task out of sequence”. This step is inherent because if the design of a

Art Unit: 2672

task is correct the arithmetic operations will follow the sequence, otherwise it operates out of sequence.

7. Claim 7.

“An apparatus for processing video image data including a plurality of different types of data such as position, texture and color data, the apparatus comprising: means for providing tasks to be performed on each different type of data of the image data; means for dividing the image data into a plurality of groups based on the type of data for each group, and for determining a set of arithmetic operations required to accomplish the tasks provided for the corresponding type of data; means for assigning each arithmetic operation to one of a plurality of commonly used arithmetic units; means for performing each arithmetic operation by the assigned arithmetic unit whereby each type of data is transformed in accordance with the corresponding provided tasks; and means for combining the transformed data of each group”. Ashburn in Figs. 12 and 16 illustrates plurality of data groups, which are representing vertex parameters.

Ashburn divides the image data into groups with known addresses based on positions (position of vertex $V_0 \dots 2$ shown by X,Y and Z) and colors (colors of vertex $V_0 \dots 2$ shown by R,G and B; also textures are part of color pixel) in Fig. 16. Ashburn discloses in Fig. 3 that is a block diagram of exemplary circuit elements for performing plane equation generation. ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) 184, Multiplier 186, and Divider 188 are operatively connected to a Register File 180 and a RAM (Random Access Memory) 196 through a multiplexer/data formatter 182. Performing and assigning an arithmetic unit is inherent because in processing of video image data an arithmetic assigned to perform color manipulation of pixels in certain area

Art Unit: 2672

and also the certain area can be divide to smaller areas (vertex) and more arithmetic can be assigned to that area. One process of arithmetic provide position of data and the other process will provide the content of pixel data and another arithmetic cab be assigned to perform the depth of the pixel. Ashburn discloses in Fig. 3 the options of Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. Ashburn discloses in (col. 4, lines 52-63) the frame buffer board then combines, on a pixel by pixel basis, the object color values with the resultant texture data provided from the texture mapping board, to generate resulting image R,G,B values for each pixel. R,G,B color control signals for each pixel are respectively provided over R,G,B lines 29 to control the pixels of the display screen to display a resulting image on the display screen that represents the texture mapped primitive.

8. Claim 8.

“The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the plurality of data groups comprises a position group for position vertex parameters, a color group for color vertex parameters and a texture group for texture vertex parameters”. See rejection of claim 7.

9. Claim 9.

“The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the plurality of said commonly a used arithmetic unit comprises an addition unit and a multiplication unit”. See rejection of claim 7.

10. Claim 10.

Art Unit: 2672

“The apparatus of claim 7 wherein for each data group, the arithmetic operation set comprises a set of arithmetic states and the determined operations for each task are defined by a sequence of the set's arithmetic states”. See rejection of claim 7.

11. Claim 11.

“The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a queue for each of said commonly used arithmetic units and wherein each arithmetic operation is sent to the queue associated with its commonly used arithmetic unit”. Ashburn discloses in (col. 2, lines 22-67; col. 3, lines 1-15) that the invention is directed to a computer graphic system apparatus for generating pixel data representative of a triangle, comprising a processing circuit for generating plane equation data in response to vertex data representative of a triangle, and a fill scan converter responsive to the processing circuit of the plane equation data for generating pixel data representative of the triangle. Also the step is inherent because providing a queue or generating plane equation for particular task or following a procedure required to assign an arithmetic operation.

12. Claim 12.

“The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising means for preventing the arithmetic units from performing the arithmetic operations of a task out of sequence”. This step is inherent because if the design of a task is correct the arithmetic operations will follow the sequence, otherwise it operates out of sequence.

13. Claim 13.

Art Unit: 2672

“An apparatus for performing video processing, the video processing including performing tasks on vertex parameters, the apparatus comprising a scheduler having an input configured to receive tasks and for arranging the vertex parameters to be processed into a plurality of groups based on in part characteristics of the vertex parameters; the sequencer for each group: determining the tasks required to process that group's parameters, determining a set of arithmetic operations required to accomplish that group's tasks, each arithmetic operation to be performed by one of a plurality of commonly used arithmetic units, and sending each of the arithmetic operations of each of that group's tasks to the arithmetic unit associated with that arithmetic operation; and each of said commonly used arithmetic units, having an input configured to receive the sent arithmetic operations and vertex parameters associated with the sent operations and for performing the sent arithmetic operations on the sent vertex parameters”. Ashburn in Figs. 12 and 16 illustrates plurality of data groups, which are representing vertex parameters. Ashburn divides the image data into groups with known addresses based on positions (position of vertex $V0...2$ shown by X,Y and Z) and colors (colors of vertex $V0...2$ shown by R,G and B; also textures are part of color pixel) in Fig. 16. Ashburn discloses in Fig. 3 that is a block diagram of exemplary circuit elements for performing plane equation generation. ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) 184, Multiplier 186, and Divider 188 are operatively connected to a Register File 180 and a RAM (Random Access Memory) 196 through a multiplexer/data formatter 182. Performing and assigning an arithmetic unit is inherent because in processing of video image data an arithmetic assigned to perform color manipulation of pixels in certain area and also the certain area can be divide to smaller areas (vertex) and more arithmetic can be assigned to that area. One process of arithmetic provide position of data and the other process will provide the content of pixel data

Art Unit: 2672

and another arithmetic cab be assigned to perform the depth of the pixel. Ashburn discloses in Fig. 3 the options of Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. Ashburn discloses in (col. 4, lines 52-63) the frame buffer board then combines, on a pixel by pixel basis, the object color values with the resultant texture data provided from the texture mapping board, to generate resulting image R,G,B values for each pixel. R,G,B color control signals for each pixel are respectively provided over R,G,B lines 29 to control the pixels of the display screen to display a resulting image on the display screen that represents the texture mapped primitive.

14. Claim 14.

“The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the plurality of groups comprises a position group for position vertex parameters, a color group for color vertex parameters and a texture group for texture vertex parameters”. Ashburn illustrates in Fig. 1A that the distributor chip 30 receives the X,Y,Z coordinate and color primitive data over bus 16 from the host computer, and distributes 3-D primitive data evenly among the 3-D geometry accelerator chips 32A, 32B and 32C. The texture mapping data transfers over bus 94. In this manner, the system bandwidth is increased because three groups of primitives are operated upon simultaneously.

15. Claim 15.

“The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the plurality of said commonly a used arithmetic unit comprises an addition unit and a multiplication unit”. See rejection of claim 13.

16. Claim 16.

Art Unit: 2672

“The apparatus of claim 13 wherein for each group, the arithmetic operation set comprises a set of arithmetic states and the determined operations for each task are defined by a sequence of the set's arithmetic states”. See rejection of claim 13.

17. Claim 17.

“The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a queue for each of said commonly used arithmetic units and wherein the sent arithmetic operations are sent to the queue associated with its commonly used arithmetic unit”. Ashburn discloses in (col. 2, lines 22-67; col. 3, lines 1-15) that the invention is directed to a computer graphic system apparatus for generating pixel data representative of a triangle, comprising a processing circuit for generating plane equation data in response to vertex data representative of a triangle, and a fill scan converter responsive to the processing circuit of the plane equation data for generating pixel data representative of the triangle. Also the step is inherent because providing a queue or generating plane equation for particular task or following a procedure required to assign an arithmetic operation.

18. Claim 18.

“The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the sequencer prevents the arithmetic units from performing the arithmetic operations of a task out of sequence”. This step is inherent because if the design of a task is correct the arithmetic operations will follow the sequence, otherwise it operates out of sequence.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

19. Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
20. Regarding claim 1, the phrases "such as and type" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).
21. Claim 5 recites the limitation "a queue" in claim 5, page 9, line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
22. Claim 11 recites the limitation "a queue" in claim 11, page 10, line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
23. Claim 17 recites the limitation "a queue" in claim 17, page 11, line 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javid A Amini whose telephone number is 703-605-4248. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on 703-305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-8705 for regular communications and 703-746-8705 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Javid Amini
January 28, 2003



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600